

DRAFT

Components of a Preferred Program Alternative In the ROD and NOD

Certification of the *Final Programmatic EIS/EIR* will occur on the federal side of CALFED with the Record of Decision (ROD) and on the state side of CALFED with the Notice of Determination (NOD). Among other things, these "decision" documents will include information on the preferred program alternative. The following provides initial thoughts on what may be included in the description of the preferred program alternative at the time of the ROD and NOD:

- **Cost Allocation** - Financing cost allocation strategy that outlines how Program implementation will be funded (specific agreements will be finalized in Stage 1)
- **Environmental Documentation** - Document compliance with applicable environmental documentation requirements at the programmatic level including:
 - Conservation strategy for ESA including "safe harbor" protections for property owners (refinement will continue in Stage 1)
 - 404(b)(1) Guidelines
 - Other Acts, Executive Orders, and state/regional/ local plan consistency
- **Operating Rules** - Agreement on interim water project operating rules (final rules will be determined in Stage 1)
- **Governance and Assurances** - Agreement on the framework for the assurances (the assurances will be finalized in Stage 1)
 - How agencies will coordinate or the need for a new agency
 - Forum for stakeholder involvement
 - Final contingency response process for unforeseen circumstances
 - Framework for the many other assurances in the package
- **Stage 1 Actions** - Agreement on the set of actions for Stage 1 (see Attachment B for examples)
- **Conditions/Linkages** - Agreement on the conditions and linkages to guide progress from one stage of implementation to the next

- **Common Program Status** - Agreement on the level of programmatic detail contained in each of the six common program elements
 - **Water Transfer Framework** - will outline policy direction for transfer rules, baseline data collection, public disclosure, etc.
 - **Water Use Efficiency Program** - will outline policy direction to reflect State of California legal requirements for reasonable and beneficial use of water
 - **Levee System Integrity Program** - will provide a detailed plan for reducing risk of catastrophic breaching of Delta levees
 - **Ecosystem Restoration Plan** - will provide a detailed plan for improving and increasing aquatic and terrestrial habitats and improving ecological functions throughout the Bay-Delta system
 - **Water Quality Program** - will outline research (and select high priority actions) to improve understanding of effective water quality management and on the ultimate control of water quality problems at their sources
 - **Watershed Coordination** - will outline plans to coordinate with and support local watershed entities to improve environmental conditions and resource management in the watersheds

These will be more fully developed as parts of the preferred Program alternative for the *Revised Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR* in late 1998, the *Final Programmatic EIS/EIR* in late 1999 and the ROD and NOD.